

I claim:

1. A system for monitoring the location of a mobile object, said system comprising:
 - (i) mobile apparatus associated with said object, said apparatus comprising:
 - 5 a position determination device for determining the location of said object;
 - a processor for interpreting said determined location and generating a verbal message to convey said determined location;
 - a radio communication device for communicating said verbal message; and
 - (ii) communications apparatus operable by a user of said system and configurable to
- 10 receive communication of said verbal message from said apparatus and provide an audible representation thereof to the user.

2. A method of monitoring the location of mobile object, said method comprising the steps of :
 - 15 (i) establishing a radio communications link between a user at a location remote from said object, and an apparatus associated with said object;
 - (ii) determining the location of said object by said apparatus;
 - (iii) generating a verbal message, by said apparatus, to convey said object location;
 - (iv) delivering said verbal message by said radio communications link; and
- 20 (v) audibly announcing said verbal message to said remote user.

3. An apparatus associated with a mobile object, said apparatus comprising:
 - 25 a position determination device for determining the location of said object; and
 - a processor for interpreting said determined location and generating a verbal message to convey said determined location.

4. A system for monitoring an object, said system comprising:
 - (i) apparatus associated with said object, said apparatus comprising:

one or more acquisition devices for acquiring data relating to the status of said object;

a processor for interpreting said acquired data and for generating messages;

a speech processor for converting said generated messages to verbal messages;

5 a radio communication device for communication of said verbal messages; and

(ii) communications apparatus operable by a user of said system and configurable to receive communication of said verbal messages from said apparatus and provide an audible representation thereof to said user.

10 5. A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said apparatus associated with said object is configured to automatically generate and communicate a verbal message to a user of said system upon said apparatus detecting a change in the status of said object.

15 6. A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said apparatus associated with said object further comprises a decoding device configured to receive and decode command signals of a user, issued via said communications apparatus, in response to a verbal message received by said user.

20 7. A system as claimed in claim 6, wherein said decoding device is further configured to receive and decode command signals of said user, for controlling at least one functional feature incorporated in said object.

25 8. A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said apparatus associated with said object further comprises a human speech interpretation device for interpreting speech commands of a user, issued via said communications apparatus, in response to a verbal message generated by said apparatus and received by said user.

9. A system as claimed in claim 8, wherein said human speech interpretation device is configured to interpret speech commands of said user, issued via said communications apparatus, for controlling at least one functional feature incorporated in said object.

5 10. A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said one or more acquisition devices include a Global Positioning System (GPS) device for determining the geographic location of said object.

11. A system as claimed in claim 10, wherein said apparatus associated with said 10 object further comprises a database for relating position coordinates provided by said GPS device with at least a location name for inclusion in said verbal message.

12. A system as claimed in claim 11, wherein said database comprises street names related to position coordinates, wherein said street names are representative of said 15 location names.

13. A system as claimed in claim 12, wherein said apparatus is configured to monitor a mobile vehicle.

20 14. A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein said apparatus is further configured to provide verbal navigational information to an occupant of said mobile vehicle.

15. A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said radio communication device comprises a cellular telephone device.

25 16. A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said communication apparatus comprises a telephone apparatus.

17. A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein said telephone apparatus comprises a cellular mobile telephone apparatus.

18. A system as claimed in claim 4, wherein said apparatus is configured for monitoring premises of fixed location.

19. A method for monitoring an object, said method comprising the steps of: establishing a radio communications link between a user at a location remote from said object, and an apparatus associated with said object;

10 determining the status of said object by said apparatus;

generating a verbal message, by said apparatus;

delivering said verbal message by said radio communications link; and

audibly announcing said verbal message to said remote user.

15 20. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said step of establishing said radio communications link is performed by said user.

21. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said step of establishing said radio communications link is automatically performed by said apparatus upon detection of a

20 change in status of said object by said apparatus.

22. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said step of delivering said verbal message is performed using a cellular radio network.

25 23. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said step of audibly announcing is performed using a telephone apparatus.

24. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said step of audibly announcing is performed using a cellular mobile telephone apparatus.

25. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said object to be monitored comprises fixed location premises.

5 26. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said method further comprises the step of said user responding, via said communication apparatus, to a verbal message received by said user, via said communication apparatus.

10 27. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said method further comprises the step of said user issuing commands, via said communication apparatus, for remotely controlling at least one functional feature incorporated in said object.

15 28. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said method further comprises the step of said user verbally responding, via said communication apparatus, to a verbal message received by said user, via said communication apparatus.

20 29. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said method further comprises the step of said user verbally issuing commands, via said communication apparatus, for remotely controlling at least one functional feature incorporated in said object.

30. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said method further comprises the step of audibly delivering a verbal message to an occupant of said object.

31. An apparatus associated with an object, said apparatus comprising:
25 one or more acquisition devices for acquiring data relating to the status of said object;
a processor for interpreting said acquired data and for generating messages;
a speech processor for converting said generated messages to verbal messages;
and

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a radio communication device for communication of said verbal messages.

32. An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said apparatus is configured to automatically generate and communicate a verbal message to a remote user upon said 5 apparatus detecting a change in the status of said object.

33. An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said apparatus further comprises a decoding device configured to receive and decode command signals received from a remote user, in response to a verbal message generated by said apparatus and received by 10 said user.

34. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said decoding device is further configured to receive and decode command signals received from said remote user, for controlling at least one functional feature incorporated in said object.

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35. An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said apparatus further comprises a human speech interpretation device for interpreting speech commands received from a remote user, in response to a verbal message generated by said apparatus and received by said user.

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36. An apparatus as claimed in claim 35, wherein said human speech interpretation device is configured to interpret speech commands of said user, for controlling at least one functional feature incorporated in said object.

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37. An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said one or more acquisition devices include a Global Positioning System (GPS) device for determining the geographic location of said object.

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38. An apparatus as claimed in claim 37, further comprising a database for relating position coordinates provided by said GPS device with at least a location name, for inclusion in said verbal message.

5 39. An apparatus as claimed in claim 38, wherein said database comprises street names related to position coordinates, wherein said street names are representative of said location names.

40. An apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein said apparatus is configured to
10 monitor a mobile vehicle.

41. An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein said apparatus is further configured to provide verbal navigational information messages to an occupant of said mobile vehicle.

15 42. An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said radio communication device comprises a cellular telephone device.

43. An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said communication apparatus
20 comprises a telephone apparatus.

44. An apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein said telephone apparatus comprises a cellular mobile telephone apparatus.

25 45. An apparatus as claimed in claim 31, wherein said apparatus is configured for monitoring premises of fixed location.